



# Lake Wausau Evaluation Project Update

By Lake Wausau Association, Inc.



# Lake Wausau Association Evaluation Project

- ▶ Project is coordinated by the Lake Wausau Association.
- ▶ The project commenced in April 2012, with an anticipated completion date of December 31, 2014.
- ▶ Extensions have been granted through December 31, 2017, due to the delay of project tasks performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- ▶ LWA has received contributions from surrounding municipalities, state grant funds from the WI DNR, federal funds, and donations toward the cost of the evaluation project.
- ▶ LWA has also solely funded water quality improvement initiatives through fundraising efforts.



# Project Research Tasks: Status Update

- ▶ Hydrodynamic Modeling (Task 1) and potential Dye Tracer Studies (Task 2) – **IN PROCESS**
- ▶ Aquatic Macrophyte Survey and Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan (Task 3) – Completed in 2012
  - Updated survey is needed in 2017 for continued weed harvesting and final APM and Lake Management Plan – **IN PROCESS**
- ▶ Bathymetry and In-Lake Habitat (Task 4) – Completed in 2014
- ▶ Shoreland Habitat Survey (Task 5) – Completed in 2017
- ▶ Social and Economic Values Study (Task 6) – Completed in 2014/2015
- ▶ Development of the Lake Management Plan (Task 7) – **IN PROCESS**... awaiting completion of Tasks 1 and 2, as well as an updated survey for Task 3



# Sharing of Project Results



- ▶ Results of the project have been shared with the community through public meetings, and will culminate with a series of public meetings to develop the outline for the contents of the final Lake Management Plan.
- ▶ Technical meetings have taken place over the course of the project with board members, committee members, DNR representatives, scientists and researchers.
- ▶ The adoption of the final Lake Management Plan will be done through a public meeting process.



# Status of Funding our Efforts to Improve Lake Wausau

- ▶ **Initial Project Costs - \$169,000**
  - State DNR Grant Funds Awarded - \$66,439 (25% or \$16,610 withheld and released at project completion pending final DNR approval)
  - Total Municipal Contributions - \$26,500
  - Federal Funding Granted - \$65,000
  - In-Kind Services - \$3,000
  - LWA Cash Contributions - \$8,061
- ▶ **Additional Project Costs to be Funded**
  - 2017 Aquatic Plant Survey & Species Mapping - \$26,900
    - State DNR Grand Funds of \$18,014 awarded in April 2017 (\$8,872 withheld and released at project completion pending final DNR approval)
- ▶ **Total Project Costs - \$195,900**



# LWA Weed Harvesting Efforts

- ▶ Weed harvesting conducted – Cost of \$37,950
  - 2014 Harvested 50 tons – Cost of \$7,650
  - 2015 Harvested 180 tons – Cost of \$15,000
  - 2016 Harvested 250 tons – Cost of \$15,300
  - 2017 – No weed harvesting conducted due to conditions leading to minimal weed growth
- ▶ Funds generated by LWA fundraising efforts - \$96,700
  - Raised \$8,800 in 2013 through Annual Fundraiser
  - Raised \$16,000 in 2014 through Annual Fundraiser
  - Raised \$20,000 in 2015 through Annual Fundraiser, and \$4,000 through other raffles
  - Raised \$23,000 in 2016 through Annual Fundraiser, and \$1,400 through other raffles
  - Raised \$23,500 in 2017 through Annual Fundraiser



# Lake Management Plan Implementation

- ▶ Funding for implementation will be necessary and could be substantial
- ▶ LWA intends to form a formal Advisory Team to assist in building community support for Lake Wausau
- ▶ LWA also intends to partner with...
  - Local Community Foundations
  - Surrounding Municipalities
  - Neighboring impoundment groups
  - Businesses and other local organizations that share in our mission
- ▶ LWA may be eligible to apply for a DNR Lake Protection Grant upon completion of the Lake Management Plan
  - Maximum grant amount is 75% of total costs, not to exceed \$200,000

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# Long-Term Community Benefits

- ▶ Improved aesthetics
- ▶ Increased tourism opportunities
- ▶ Increased spending to local businesses
- ▶ Increased property values
- ▶ Improved recreation
- ▶ Improved fish habitat
- ▶ Increased boat launch fee revenue
- ▶ Overall improvement to quality of life for our community members





# What We Need...

- ▶ Continued financial support from the community and municipalities
- ▶ Continued support and involvement with our efforts from community members who value Lake Wausau as a significant resource to our community
- ▶ Volunteers to help with in-kind services
- ▶ Membership growth to help us sustain our activities and achieve our goals

*There is Strength in Numbers...*



# Thank You!

- ▶ LWA Contact Information
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